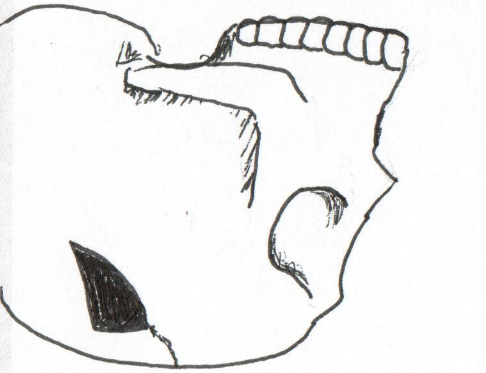
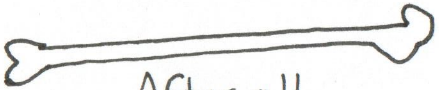
MEMENTO MORI



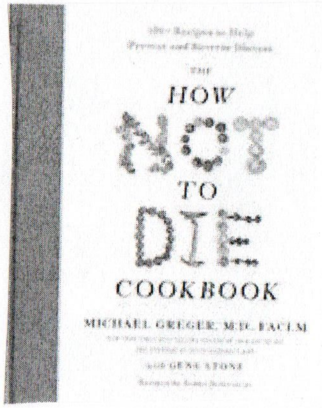
SHARD

So -
you're going to
die.
Probably not today,
but hey, you
never know.
Let's talk about
that.



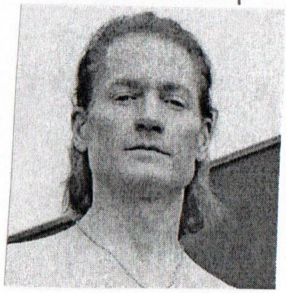
After all,
hiding from that
reality doesn't
change anything,
does it?

Not even with entire
industries devoted to
staving off the inevitable
or offering illusory hope
to profit off our most
primal fear.
(Or stoking that fear
for their own ends)



Sure,
asshole.

Not even with billions of
dollars at your disposal and
a team of scientists, and
a "health regimen" you
slavishly adhere to at the
expense of actually living,
like this dipshit.



(I'd put his
name, but
frankly, he
doesn't
deserve
recognition.)

As far as I'm concerned,
my job is to outlive him,
just on general principle.

No matter what steps
you take to maintain your
health - medicine, diet,
exercise regimen - it's
still going to happen
someday -
likely beyond your control,
likely in a fairly degrading
fashion.

Here's a
romanticized
Emperor on
his death bed.
Is this a
"good" death?
Do you
think
he thought
so?

And there's a level of
comfort in knowing that
we all - the great and
the small, the loved and
the despised, the
brilliant and the
foolish - undergo the
same rite of passage;
that we're all in this
together in facing
our ends.

But...

You know what? It's
okay.
If you're reading this,
then you still have
this moment.
You are still capable of
changing things,
connecting with others,
enjoying things,
learning,
helping,
making the
world
infinitesimally
better.

It's not too late,
even now.

"Live a good life.
If there are gods, and they
are just, then they will not
care how devout you have
been, but will welcome you
based on the virtues you
have lived by.
If there are gods, and they
are unjust, they are not
worth serving.
If there are no gods, then
you will be gone, but will
have lived a noble life
that will live on in the
memories of your loved
ones."

- Marcus Aurelius

Thomas Vose CC-BY-NC 5-6-24
trvose@hotmail.com